

## FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

November 9, 2005

J. Peter Clements, Treasurer Republican Party of Virginia Inc. 115 East Grace Street Richmond, VA 23219

Response Due Date: December 9, 2005

Identification Number: C00001305

Reference:

May Monthly Report (4/01/05 - 4/30/05)

Dear Mr. Clements:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above. An itemization of the information needed follows:

-The totals listed on Lines 7, 21(a)(i), 21(a)(ii), 21(c), 31, and 32, Column B of the Summary and Detailed Summary Page(s) appear to be incorrect. Please be advised that you should add the "Calendar Year-to-Date" total from your previous report to the current "Total This Period" figure from Column A to derive the correct Column B totals. Please amend your report and any subsequent reports that may be affected by this correction.

- -The beginning cash balance of this report should equal the ending balance of your April Monthly Report (3/01/05 - 3/31/05). Please clarify this discrepancy and amend any subsequent report(s) that may be affected by this correction.
- -Your calculations for Line 15, Column A appear to be incorrect. FEC calculations disclose this amount(s) to be \$1,349.95. Please provide the corrected total(s) on the Detailed Summary Page.
- -Schedule B supporting Line 21(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) totaling \$46,850.37 for "Telemarketing/Fundraising", "Direct Mail Fundraising", "Postage/Fundraising", "Fundraising Direct Mail", "Direct Mail/Fundraising RPV", "Fundraising Postage/RPV", and "Direct Mail/Fundraising Cost RPV". Expenditures and disbursements for public

communications (as defined under 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s).

Further, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please clarify if this activity meets the definition of Federal Election Activity or if it contains express advocacy and amend your report to properly disclose this activity, if necessary.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Employee Benefit". Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal election activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses \$4,600 in payments for "IT Consulting" and "Janitorial Service" to individuals. Please clarify whether these individuals are employees of your committee. You are advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal election activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal, non-federal and Levin accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal or Levin account for salary and wage payments is not permissible and must be returned. Please provide clarification regarding these payments.

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered. Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1398.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Hartsock

Campaign Finance Analyst.

Reports Analysis Division

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